

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Psychological & Paramilitary Staff

SUBJECT: Soviet Power & The Democratic Future by
Boris Bakh

Attached is a copy of subject paper, an analysis prepared
by a member of the American Committee for Liberation staff for
planning and operational purposes of the Committee.

CORD MEYER, JR.
Chief

International Organizations Division

Attachment

Soviet Power & The Democratic Future

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Distribution:

orig & 1 - addressee w att. - 1 copy
1 - C/IO w/o att.
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1 - RI w/o att.

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Director, Press and Publications Division

December 13, 1951

Emigre Relations Advisor

Parantula**CONFIDENTIAL**

(Especially sensitive)

Under separate cover we are forwarding for your consideration 10 copies of the English-language version of a 24-page magazine entitled Parantula - Special Edition for the 40th Anniversary of the Soviet October Revolution which is perhaps the best, most effective, most devastating single piece of anti-Soviet political satire I have ever seen. (It reminds one of the old "Satirikon", but is much richer in food for thought and generally better done.) The cartoons are generally brilliant, as are the arrangement of photos and the juxtaposition of quotes from Soviet lore. The textual material may not all be quite so terrific, but it is held to a minimum and is generally good and sound. And best of all, the booklet is truly very entertaining--indeed, even hilariously funny in spots--in the best New Yorker manner, so that it draws the reader to every page.

It appears to us that we should make every effort to see this get the widest possible distribution throughout the world, in languages which will reach the masses as well as the intelligentsia,--because that's the kind of a thing it is. If we can not find sufficient funds in our own budget, this would appear to be the sort of thing that our trustees might even be able to dig up a supplemental grant for special financing. However, we might even be able to arrange bulk sales to help replenish our expenses. It is unfortunate that we didn't have advance notice but the thing is so good that it will still make a big hit,--if we act quickly. Following are the publishing facts and figures.

Parantel is basically a small German-language monthly political satire magazine published in West Berlin and aimed primarily for distribution in West Germany. Therefore, it covers primarily subjects of particular interest to West Germans. The West German Ministry of All-German Affairs is reputed to be behind it.

The special 40th Anniversary edition however, is something quite different, both larger in format as well as number of pages, and devoted only of Soviet affairs. It has been translated by the publisher from the original German into French and Italian as well as the English version which you will receive. The publishers are eager to see the special edition get the widest possible dissemination and will be very willing to cooperate, but they have no further funds and must be reimbursed (on a cost basis only) for all additional translating

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...and the cost. They have given us three 1000 copies each of the German and English-French versions, but that exhausts their supply. We have no facts about the dissemination already made--how many copies, in what languages, where, and through whom--because our only contact with the publisher has been by telephone and mail. We might be able to get fuller information by sending someone to Berlin.

The publisher has submitted a detailed breakdown of costs which add up to the following:

- a. Printing of additional copies of versions already published (German, English, French, Italian):

DM 188 (\$45) per 1000 copies.

- b. Publishing of versions in additional languages:

fixed costs (translation and editing, composition, and setting up of press):

DM 120 (\$100).

plus same printing costs as above:

DM 188 (\$45) per 1000 copies.

We would suggest that additional Spanish and Russian versions would deserve special consideration; the former for distribution in Latin America and the latter for distribution to Soviet citizens as well as the emigration. It seems likely that we could not justify publication in Arabic or other eastern languages because people in those countries who could grasp the terms of reference probably knew English, French or one of the other European languages.

As one particular suggestion, we would like to see thousands of copies in various languages made available (perhaps even sold at a discount) at strategic places in Brussels during the 1950 World Fair.

We are eager to receive your reaction..

Yours

cc: 

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